



## Editorial

**Norman Goldstein MD**  
**Editor, Hawaii Medical Journal**

**Congratulations, Chiyome Fukino MD**

Governor Linda Lingle has made a very wise choice in appointing Chiyome Fukino MD as Director of the Hawaii State Department of Health.

Dr. Fukino, an active member of the Hawaii Medical Association, has served as the head of the HMA's Native Hawaiian Health Committee, having attended the Kamehameha Schools. She received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Brandeis University, her Medical Degree from the John A. Burns School of Medicine in 1979, and went on for internal medical training at the University of Hawaii Integrated Medical Residency Program. Dr. Fukino worked at the Fronk Clinic as well as Kahi Mohala and Leahi Hospital, and is in private practice at the Queen's Medical Center.

When asked why she wanted to take on this new challenge, she replied, "because to the average doctor out in the community, it's really a rattlesnake's nest." She went on to say, "I worked for so many years on Native Hawaiian issues and I really feel this is a time that I can make a significant difference."

The Hawaii Medical Journal will publish a Special Issue on the Health of Native Hawaiians. Many organizations and individuals are now involved in native Hawaiian health issues. These include Benjamin B.C. Young MD, Director of the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence; Marjorie Mau MD, Chair of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health; Winona Mesiona-Lee MD, Assistant professor of Pediatrics, who teaches basic research science to first-year medical students interested in research in native Hawaiian communities; Richard Kekuni Blaisdell MD, Professor at John A. Burns School of Medicine; Noa Aluli MD, Co-Medical Director of Molokai General Hospital, and many others.

Dr. Fukino in her new position, will be able to coordinate and encourage cooperation of the various organizations and individuals involved with native Hawaiian issues. Our new Department of Health chief said her top three priorities are long-term care, substance abuse, and mental health. She also plans to expand public access to quality health care, improving the gathering of health data, and increasing collaboration between the public and private sectors of medicine.

We applaud Chiyome Fukino for what she has accomplished, and are grateful that she has assumed this position of great responsibility for our state. On behalf of the members of the Hawaii Medical Association and the Hawaii Medical Journal, congratulations on your achievements and your continuing service to the people of Hawaii.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

E Ola Mau  
PHYSICIANS WINTER CONFERENCE 2003

FEBRUARY 21-23, 2003

Kilauea Military Camp – Hawaii

Hawaii has some of the best overall health statistics in the nation and the world, yet Native Hawaiians have some of the worst rates of chronic diseases and their complications, comparable to some third world countries. This Native Hawaiian Physicians Conference will provide physicians up-to-date information on chronic diseases and cultural sensitivities in caring for Native Hawaiians and other indigenous peoples.

Cultural sensitivities in health care has become a seminal focus in providing proper and adequate health. Providers of care need education and exposure to elements of multiple cultural aspects of health.

### Joint sponsors

E Ola Mau

&

Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

### Planning Committee

Friends of Imi Hoola

Ahahui O Na Kauka

JABSOM-Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence

Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians

HMA-Native Hawaiian Health Committee

**Until there's a cure, there's the American Diabetes Association.**